

ANNOUNCER: And Ward Burton from the Ward Burton Wildlife Foundation, renowned NASCAR driver and Daytona 500 winner.

MR. DRAKE: Thank you very much. Collaboration not confrontation, cooperation before regulation. I think now we do need to pause and thank our President George W. Bush for calling this conference and allowing so many of the people in this room to come and be together and to come up with some ideas that we can carry forward. Our President believes in conservation and with all the responsibilities that he has, he practices it on the ground and I would like for you now to give him a huge hand.

We have heard from several of our speakers about a lot of ideas. Cooperative conservation is not new. We're now taking flight and are spreading our wings. Cooperation will give us a win/win. It doesn't have to be winner-take-all. Cooperative conservation is just good common sense.

What are some of the outcomes and what should we be looking forward to? We think that you'd need four or five achievable goals that we can work toward so that the public can see what we've done here. Behind me are the agencies that have worked so hard to put this conference on. For the last several months, I would hope that we need to continue this dialogue.

One of the things we've heard over and over at this conference in the halls and in the meetings is that we need uniform definitions. We would encourage the secretaries and directors of these agencies to look at developing uniform definitions. What is clean? What is clean air? What is clean water? The definitions for wetlands, concentrated animal feeding operations and the programs that I deal with, the definitions for range lands and grasslands need to be clarified. Our nation has about half of its land mass in grasslands. In many instances when you think of conservation, you think of these grasslands.

Now, it's incumbent upon the people in this room and us, as user groups, to engage in the administrative process with our federal partners as we are writing these uniform definitions. If there is something that we would like to see come out of this conference to cooperative conservation across this nation it is that we continue this dialogue between the agencies and the user groups to come to some decision as to how to define the areas I just mentioned.

The meeting has identified some of the problems but we are identifying one of the major problems as definitions. And the people that I represent across the grazing lands of this great nation need to have some of the

uniform definitions. And once these agencies come to terms again with your help, again some definitions. Then you must communicate this to your constituency, whether it be food, fiber, producers, environmental groups, outdoors men, hunters, cities, towns, states. Everyone is your constituent.

I feel that the majority of the people out there will do what you ask them to do if they understand what it is you want them to do. But you cannot change these definitions halfway through these contracts. Cooperative conservation is good stewardship and should be a personal obligation felt by everyone in this room and everyone in our great country. Thanks to those people who have put this on and thank you for allowing me to say these few words.